GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1383
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2015
Sri Lankan Refugees
Senguttuvan Shri Balasubramaniam

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sri Lankan Tamils staying in India since the outbreak of civil war in Sri Lanka;

(b) the number of Sri Lankan Refugees who returned to Sri Lanka since the new Government took over in Sri Lanka;

(c) the number of beneficiaries along with the amount and provisions of Indian sponsorship under the Indian Housing Scheme for the construction of houses for the Sri Lankan Tamils;

(d) whether the new Government in Sri Lanka has initiated any programme to restore their lands and houses forcibly taken away from them during the prevalence of civil war;

(e) whether the Government has worked out an understanding with the Government of Sri Lanka to provide education and employment to the Sri Lankan refugees on their return to their homeland; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (b): As per the information received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu and Odisha, a total of 1,01,368 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees are presently staying in the country. There has been no organised repatriation of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees since 1995.

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(c) to (f) : Based on the information received from the Ministry of External Affairs, India has committed to build 50,000 houses for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka. The Project envisages construction of new houses and repair of damaged houses. The project is being implemented through two models, agency driven and owner-beneficiary driven. The beneficiaries of the housing project are identified through a consultative process.

The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) has released nearly 2000 acres of land to IDPs in the Northern and the Eastern Province. In January, 2015, External Affairs Minister during her meeting with visiting Sri Lankan Foreign Minister in January, 2015 urged GoSL to create conducive environment for Sri Lankan refugees to return to Sri Lanka. GoSL has been extending facilities, including education, Civil Documentation and medical services to any returning Sri Lankan citizen after staying as refugee, including in India.

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